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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 20, 25, and 26 are allowed.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed (see, e.g., specification at page 14, lines 5-12).

As amended, independent claims 1 and 14 recite a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus and an electronic apparatus, respectively, in which verification of identification information of a portable terminal is carried out in the electronic apparatus.

According to the Applicants' claimed invention, an electronic apparatus detects a nearby portable terminal, and thus can verify in the electronic apparatus identification information of the portable terminal (see, e.g., FIG. 4 of application). It is therefore possible to provide apparatus management information to a portable terminal, without the intervention of a user. Moreover, even an electronic apparatus which is not in a network environment can collect apparatus management information, thereby facilitating centralized control of apparatuses (see, e.g., specification at page 27, lines 10-21).

Claims 1-19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,950,148 to Nakagawa et al. ("Nakagawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nakagawa does not teach or suggest a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus or an electronic apparatus in which verification of identification information of a portable terminal is carried out in the electronic apparatus.

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In Nakagawa, a user inputs an ID code to a portable terminal device 30, and a copying machine 1 transmits the ID code to a host computer 40 along with identification data and data indicating that the portable terminal device 30 is connected to the copying machine 1 (see column 14, lines 13-19). Then, the host computer 40 reads the identification data and transmits "item data" including maintenance data to the copying machine 1, the copying machine 1 outputting the item data to the portable terminal device 30 (see column 11, lines 41-49; and column 13, lines 1-18).

Referring to FIG. 3 of Nakagawa, the portable terminal device 30 is connected to the copying machine 1, and the host computer 40 is connected to the copying machine 1 via a modem.

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Nakagawa of any device, system, or method having a communication controller provided in an electronic apparatus (e.g., the copying machine 1 shown in FIG. 3).

In Nakagawa, to verify identification data of the portable terminal device 30, the data must be transmitted from the copying machine 1 to the host computer 40, which provides maintenance data regarding the copying machine 1. In other words, verification does not occur in the electronic apparatus itself, but in a separate host computer.

On page 3 of the Office Action of 08/30/2006, column 13, lines 3-6 and column 14, lines 10-19 of Nakagawa were cited as allegedly corresponding to the step of verifying identification information of a portable terminal. However, for at least the reasons discussed above, Nakagawa does not teach or suggest that an electronic apparatus verifies the identification information of a portable device. Instead, in Nakagawa, to verify identification data of the portable terminal device 30, the data must be transmitted from the copying machine 1 to the host computer 40.

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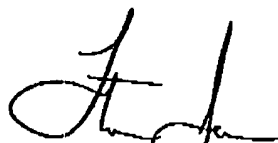
For at least the reasons discussed above, the Nakagawa reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14, and their respective dependent claims are allowable over Nakagawa.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 30, 2006

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